

MARVEL
ANNUAL

CONTEST OF CHAOS

1 SUMMER
2023

SPIDER-MAN

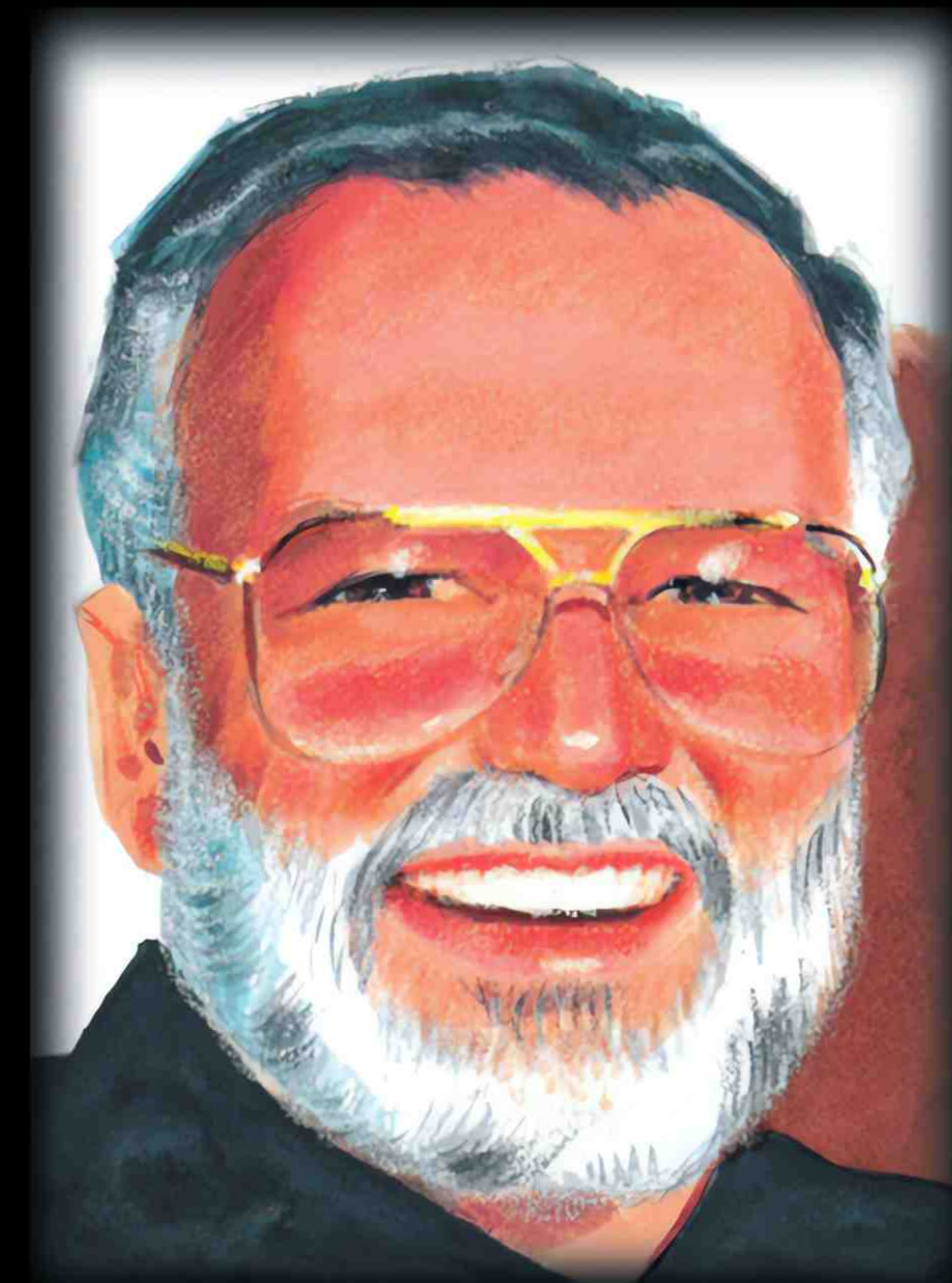


RB
A
BVA
TOV



John Romita

1930 – 2023



Marvel mourns the passing of comic-book artist John Romita Sr., whose work on *Amazing Spider-Man* helped make the character a worldwide sensation. In his work as Marvel's art director, he designed the Punisher and Wolverine and served as mentor for countless artists during his decades-long tenure with the company.

Romita had a profound effect on everyone he met at Marvel. He was always kind and warm and served as an inspiration to all who knew him or followed his work. Romita helped build the Marvel Universe as we know it, and he will be greatly missed.



"John Romita Sr. was an incomparable artist who brought so many iconic Marvel characters to life on the page and set the tone and look of Marvel's comics for decades. His version of Spider-Man has inspired so many of us at Marvel Studios. Our thoughts are with his family and the generations of artists and fans who fell in love with the characters he drew"

— KEVIN FEIGE

"I was recently able to fawn over some of John Romita Sr.'s original Spider-Man pages, and the word that kept popping into my mind as I marveled over his linework was 'timeless.' His style was such a departure from what had come before, which John did say made him nervous, but one that came to define the look of Peter, Spider-Man, MJ, Gwen and everyone else in their orbit. And the same was true for every Marvel character John designed, penciled and inked. Whether as an artist or art director, John's work influenced generations of comic book artists. With his passing, the comic industry loses a true legend, but just like his artwork, his legacy will remain timeless."

— C.B. CEBULSKI

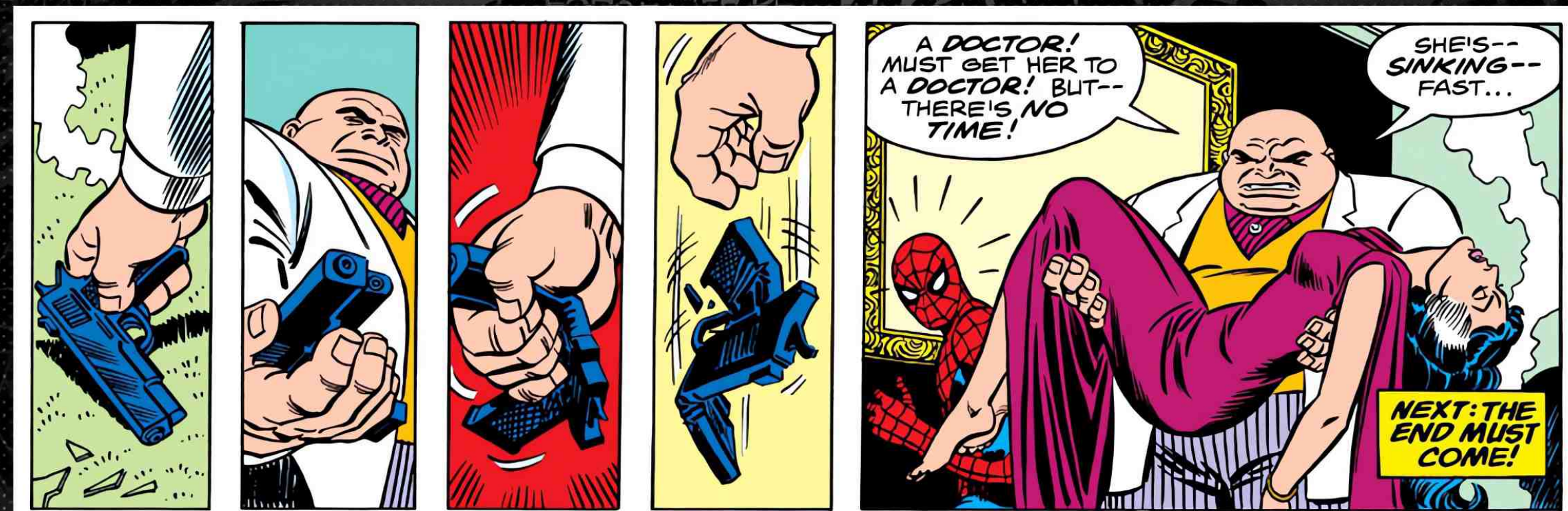
"When you close your eyes and picture Spider-Man, you're probably picturing a John Romita Sr. Spider-Man. From his debut of the character in *Amazing Spider-Man* #39, the subsequent fifty issues of art, more than a hundred covers and the work he did on the newspaper strip, John defined Spidey for generations of people around the world. That would be enough for anyone else, but John was also an excellent art director, a fantastic father, a doting grandfather and a gentleman. All of us making Spider-Man comics, and Marvel Comics in general, work in his shadow and strive to live up to the example of the legend, 'lazy' John Romita."

— NICK LOWE



DECADES OF AMAZING WORK

John Romita wore many hats at Marvel. His most famous contribution was his run on *Amazing Spider-Man*, including the above cover to the series' landmark fiftieth issue. His association with the character would include drawing the cover of the famed wedding of Peter Parker and Mary Jane Watson, *Amazing Spider-Man Annual* #21, seen opposite top right. With Stan Lee, he started the Spider-Man newspaper strip, including the sequence with Kingpin from Sept. 25, 1977, seen opposite center. Behind the scenes, Romita was responsible for designing many of Marvel's most famous characters. At bottom opposite are Romita's costume designs for Black Widow and Wolverine.



"One of the highlights of my career was working with John Romita Sr. I couldn't believe that my 25-year-old self was working and interacting with him, and what made it even better was that he was so considerate and kind – something that has stuck with me ever since, among many other memories with him. It was one of the rare moments where you meet one of your heroes and he exceeds your expectations in every possible way.

His contributions to Marvel's pantheon and culture are immense, and he will be sorely missed. He was a great and kind man who truly made the world a better place. My deepest condolences to Virginia, Johnny and the Romita family."

— DAN BUCKLEY

The Darkhold is a tome of unimaginable power, created as a conduit for the evil influence of the elder god Chthon. Not long ago, the Scarlet Witch fused the Darkhold to her soul, imprisoning Chthon and neutralizing his magic. But Wanda's mentor, the newly rejuvenated Agatha Harkness, secretly broke into Wanda's prison and stole Chthon's heart. What she plans to use it for is a mystery...

SPIDER-MAN

ANNUAL #1



A spider bite granted Peter Parker the proportional speed, strength and agility of a spider. After the tragic death of his Uncle Ben, Peter Parker understood that with great power there must also come great responsibility, and he became the crimefighting super hero called SPIDER-MAN!

James "Logan" Howlett was forged into a living weapon with indestructible adamantium claws and a powerful healing factor by the Weapon X program. His early years are shrouded in mystery, but now he fights for mutantkind as the hero WOLVERINE!

CONTEST OF CHAOS: PART ONE

Writer **Stephanie Phillips** Artist **Alberto Foche**

Color Artist **Raúl Angulo** Letterer **VC's Joe Caramagna**

Cover Artist **R.B. Silva** Variant Cover Artist **Gabriele Dell'Otto**

Production Designer **Gabriel Mata** Assistant Editor **Kaitlyn Lindtvedt**

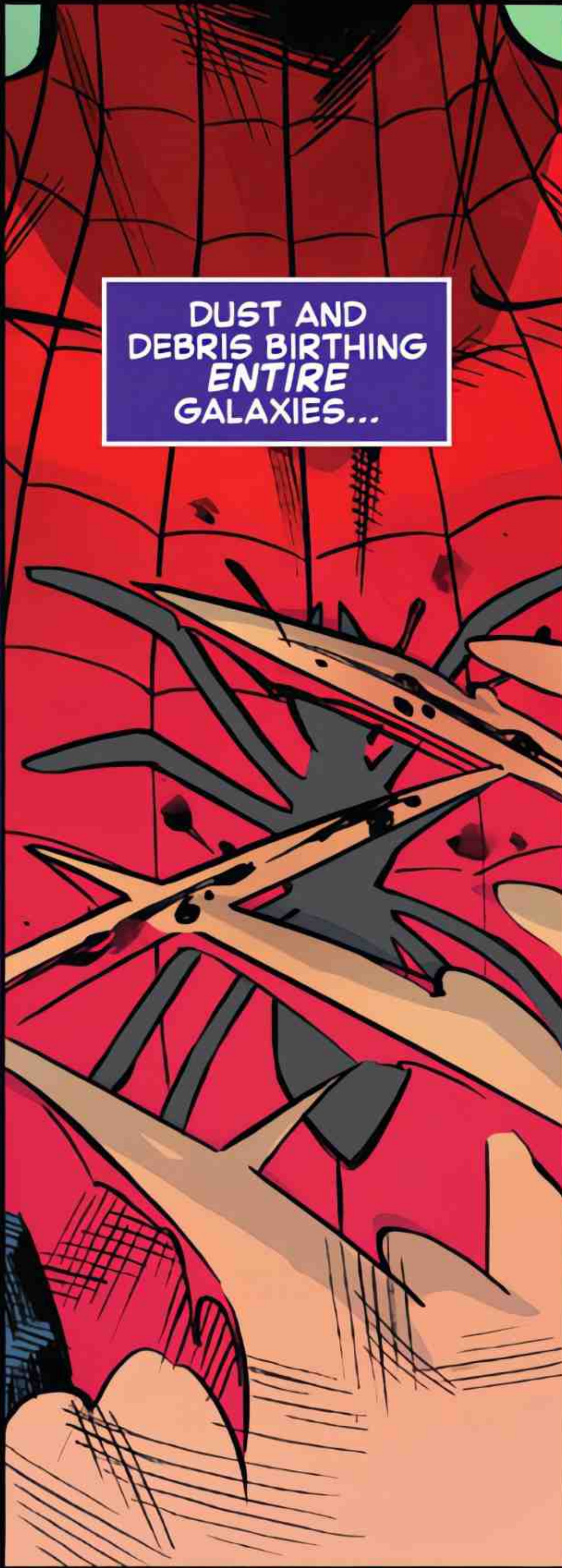
Editor **Alanna Smith** Editor in Chief **C.B. Cebulski**

SPIDER-MAN CREATED BY STAN LEE & STEVE DITKO

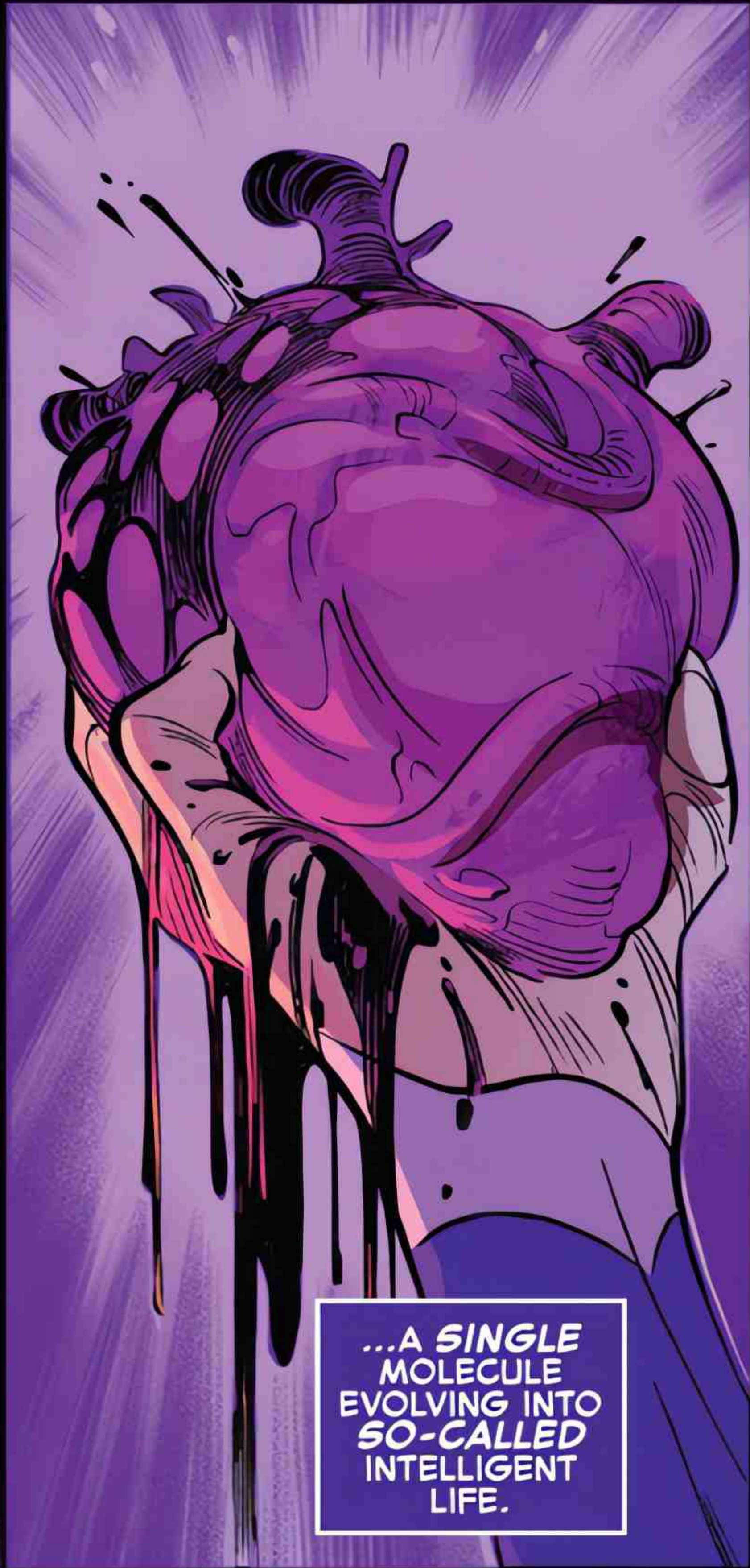
EVERYTHING
BEGINS WITH
CHAOS.



DUST AND
DEBRIS BIRTHING
ENTIRE
GALAXIES...



...A SINGLE
MOLECULE
EVOLVING INTO
SO-CALLED
INTELLIGENT
LIFE.



UNPREDICTABLE.

RANDOM.

LAWLESS.



ALL GIVING WAY TO
SOMETHING NEW AND
UNFATHOMABLE.



IT IS ONLY
THROUGH
CHAOS...



BEFORE.

...THAT ORDER
IS BORN.

I HEARD
A JOKE THE OTHER
DAY THAT YOU'RE
GOING TO LOVE,
RHINO...

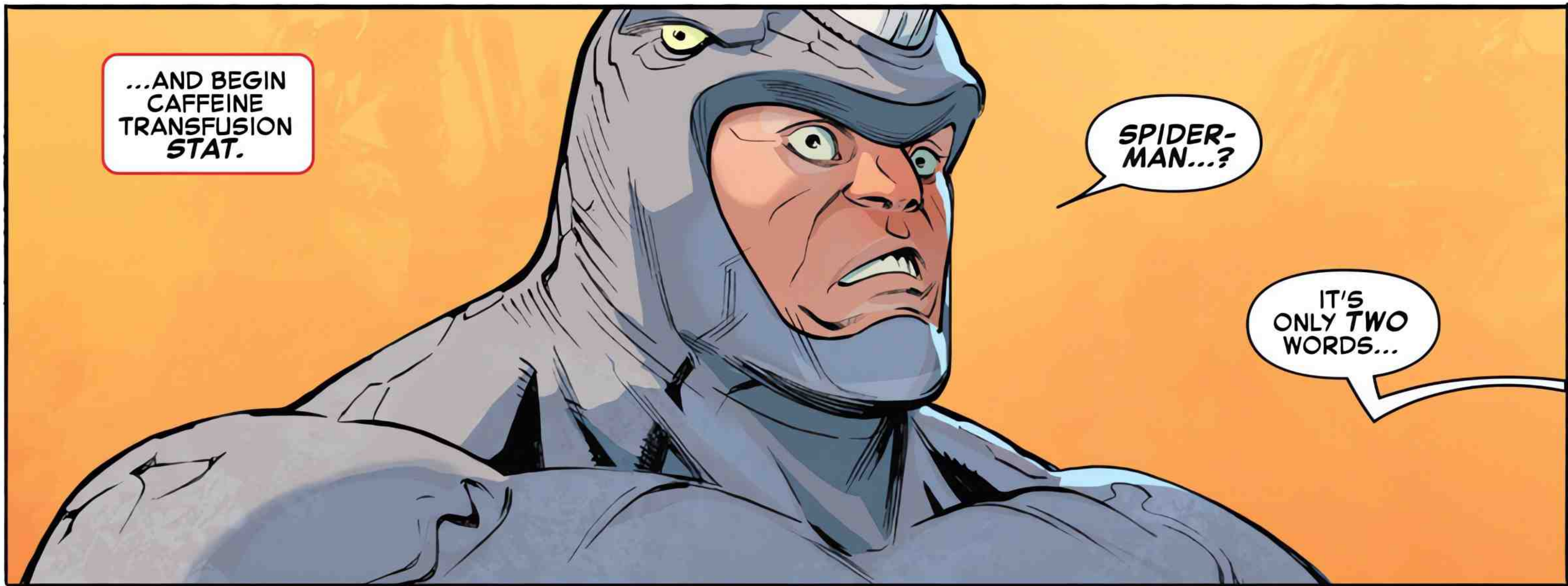
I *THOUGHT*
TODAY WAS
GOING TO BE
JUST LIKE ANY
OTHER TUESDAY.

AFTER HITTING THE
SNOOZE BUTTON
15 TO 37 TIMES...

...EVEN YOU
WILL BE ABLE TO
UNDERSTAND
IT...

...GRAB A
DONUT...GLAZED,
NEVER JELLY...

...?



...AND BEGIN
CAFFEINE
TRANSFUSION
STAT.

SPIDER-
MAN...?

IT'S
ONLY TWO
WORDS...



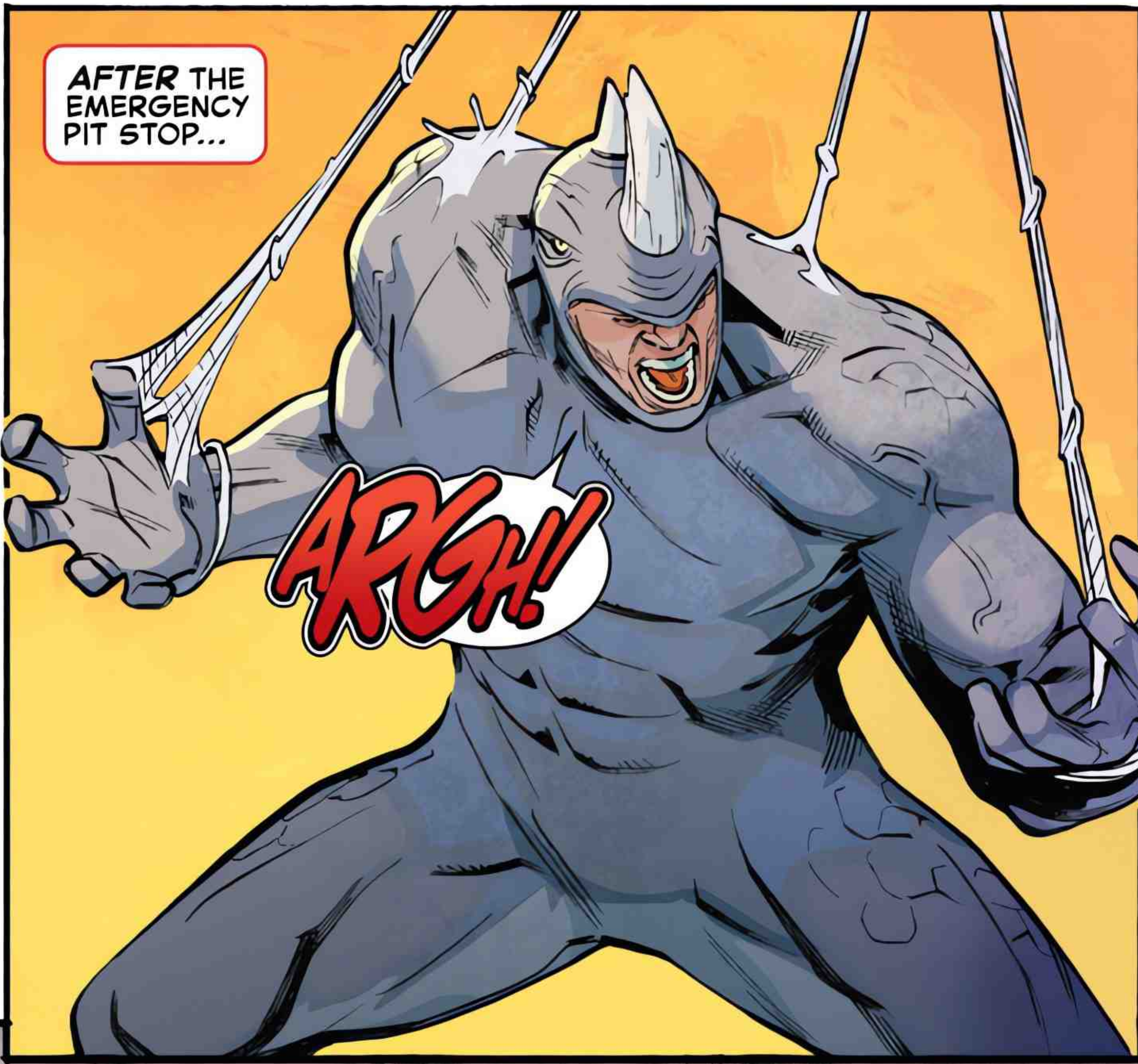
THEN I GO FOR MY
MORNING SWING AND
FRANTICALLY SEARCH
FOR A RESTROOM AFTER
FORGETTING THAT MY
STOMACH *CAN'T* HANDLE
THAT MUCH COFFEE...

...THWIP
AND
THWIP.



THWIP

THWIP



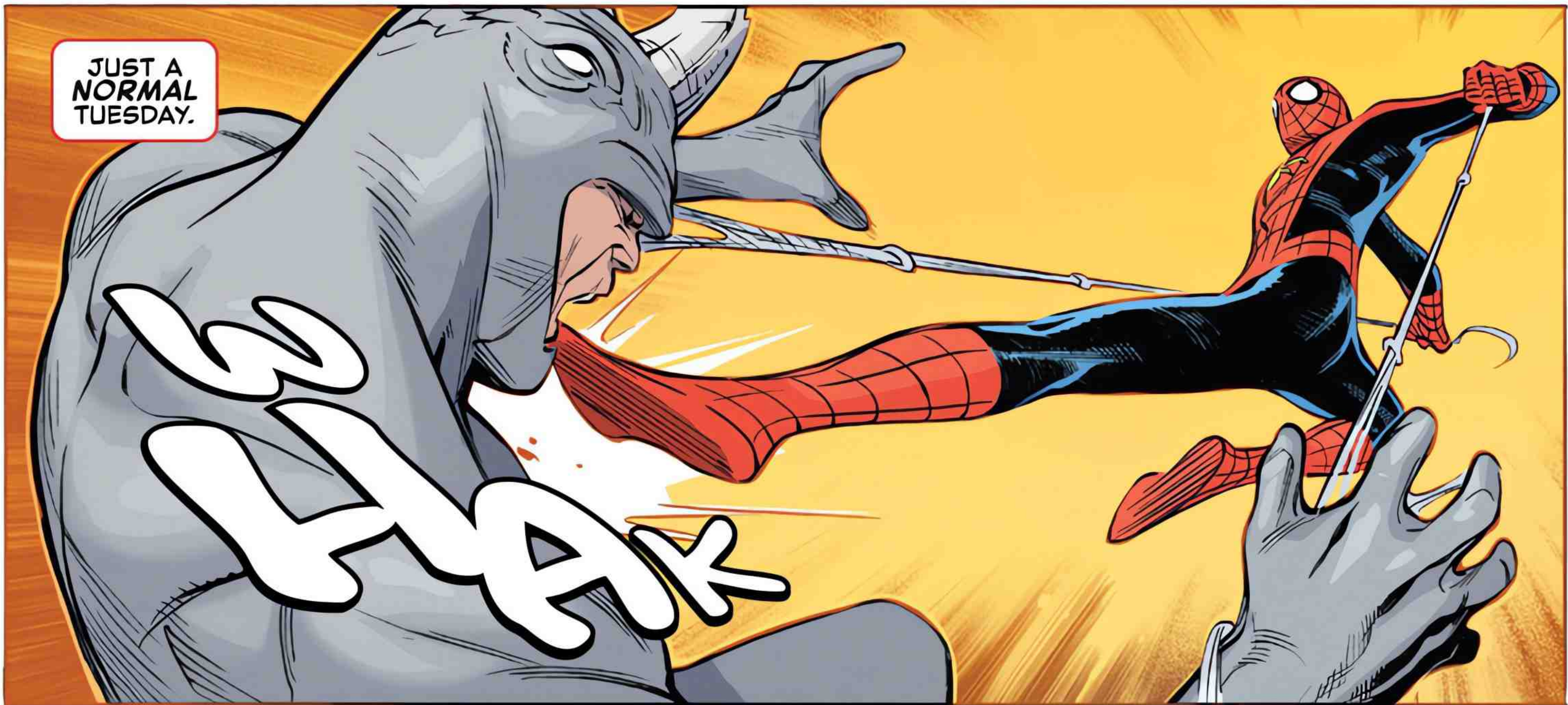
AFTER THE
EMERGENCY
PIT STOP...

ARGH!



...I SAVE THE CITY
FROM CERTAIN
DESTRUCTION.

I TOLD
YOU YOU'D
GET IT!





...IS ANYTHING
BUT A NORMAL
TUESDAY.

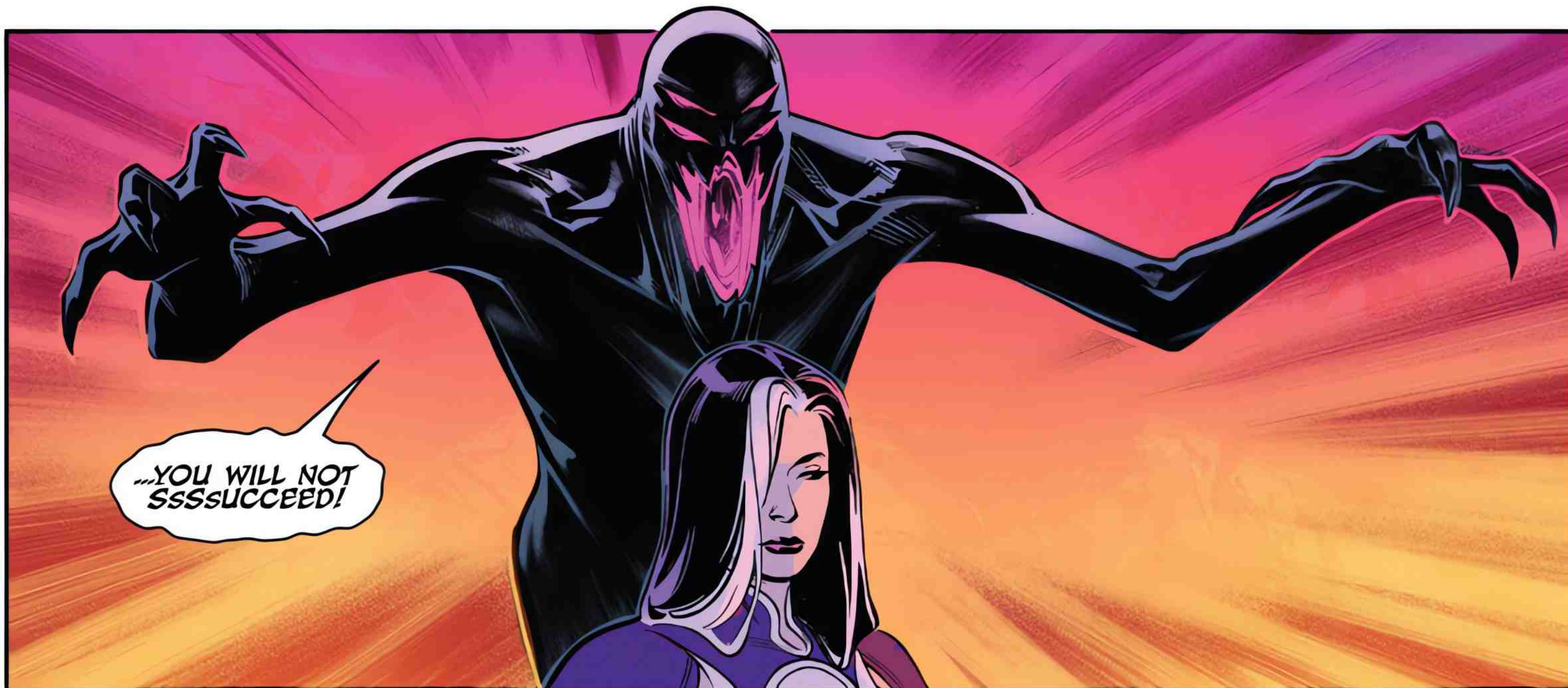


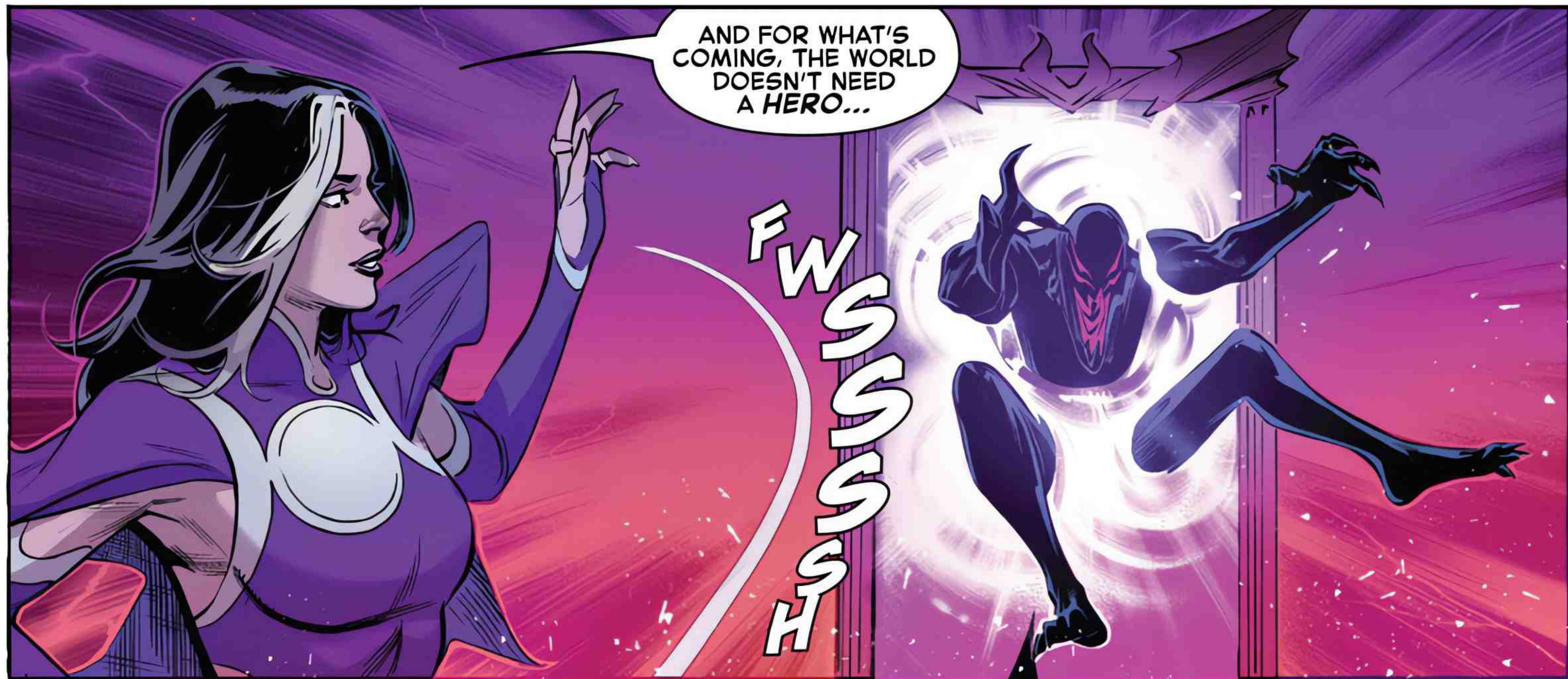
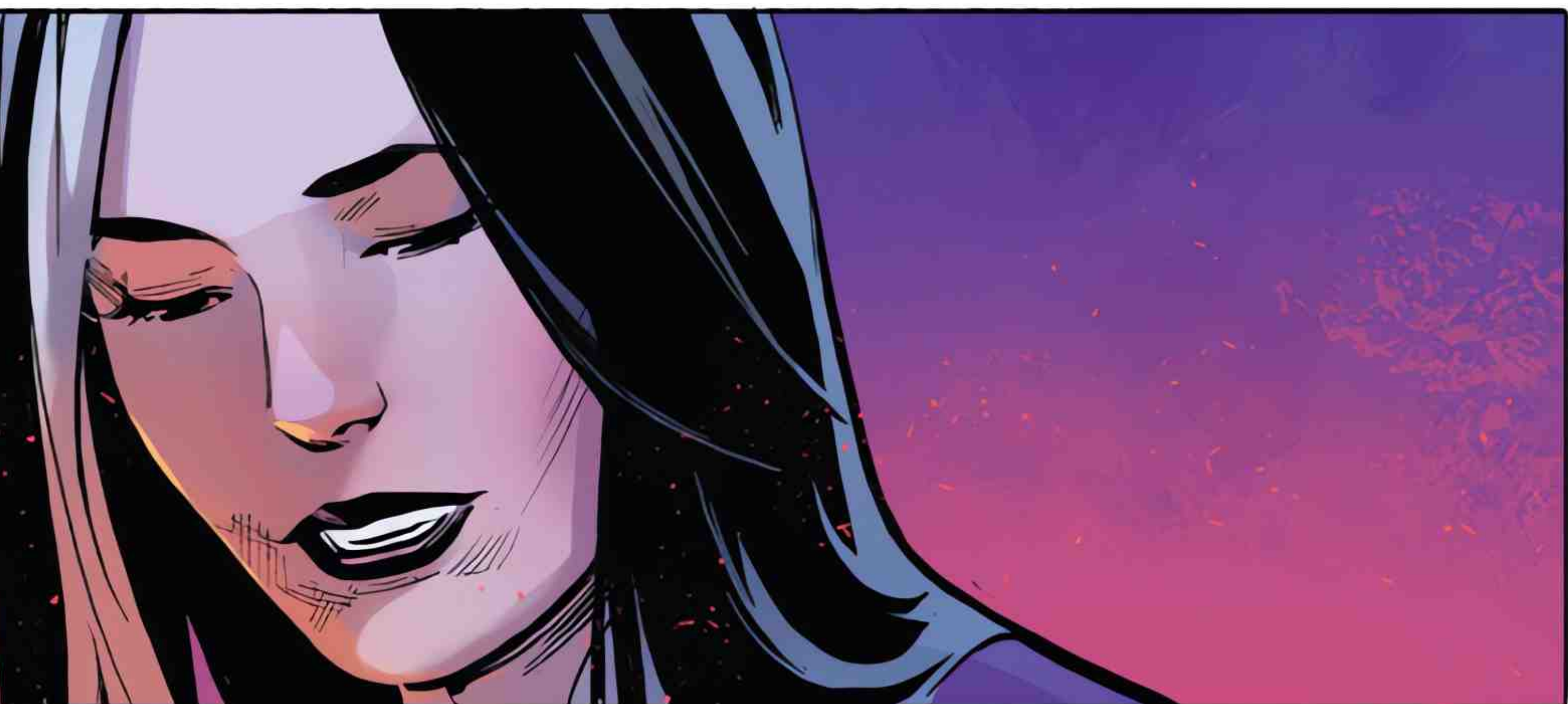
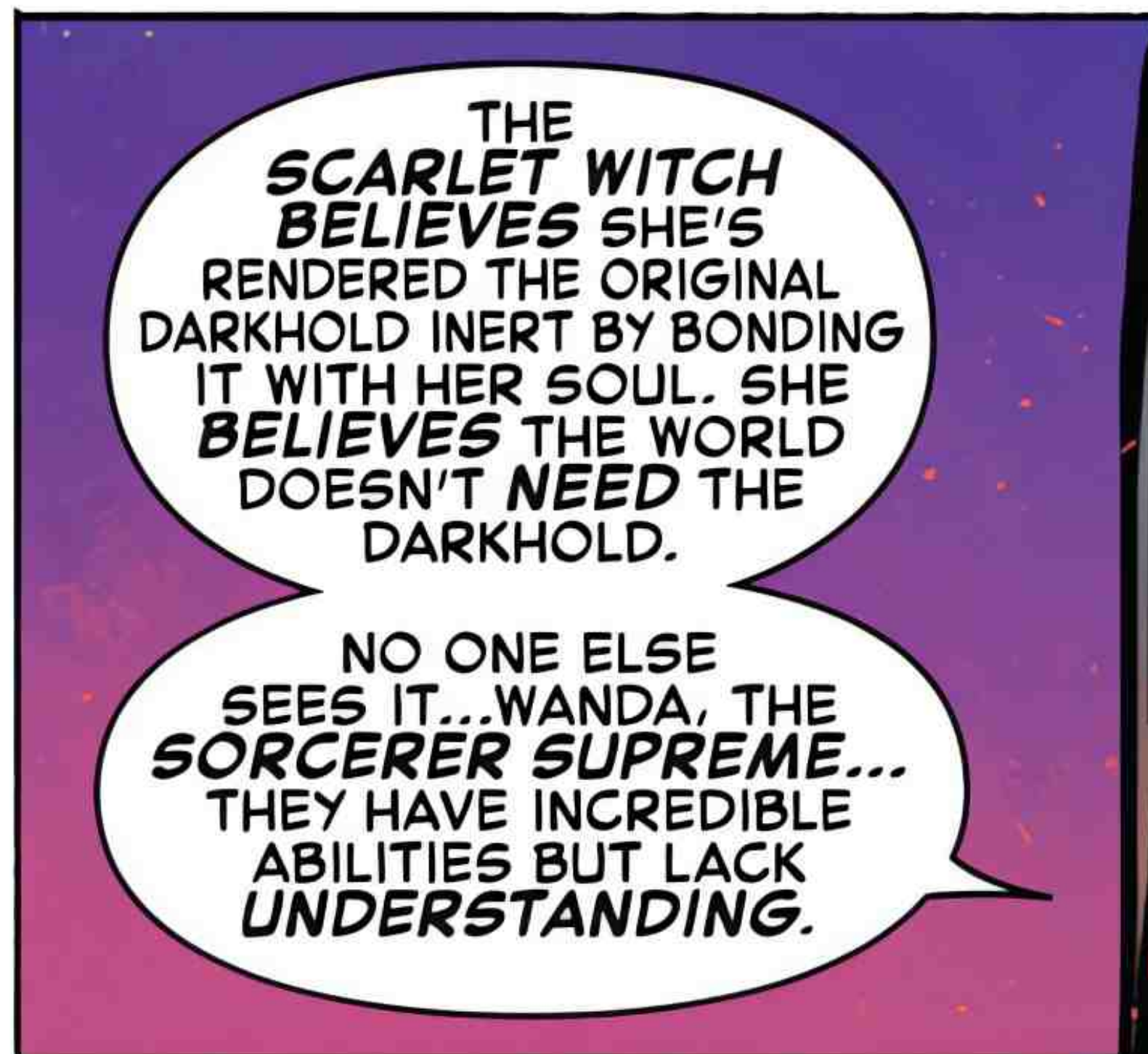
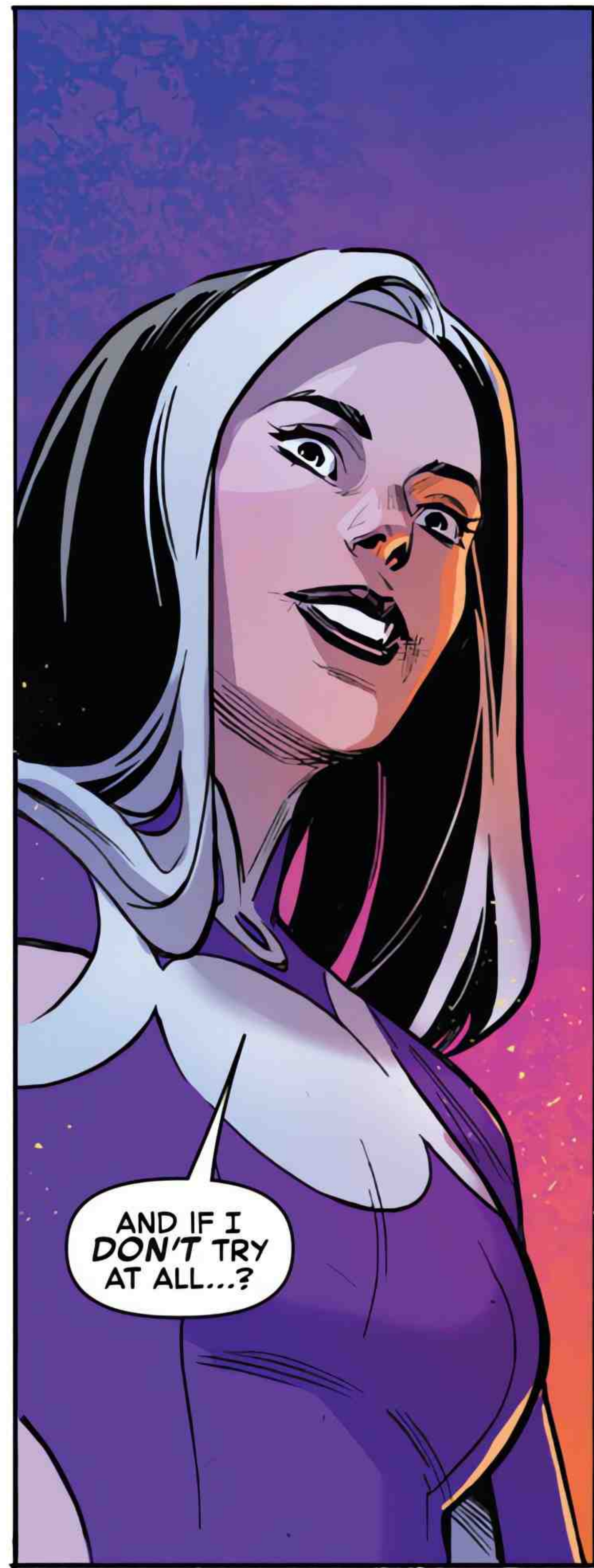
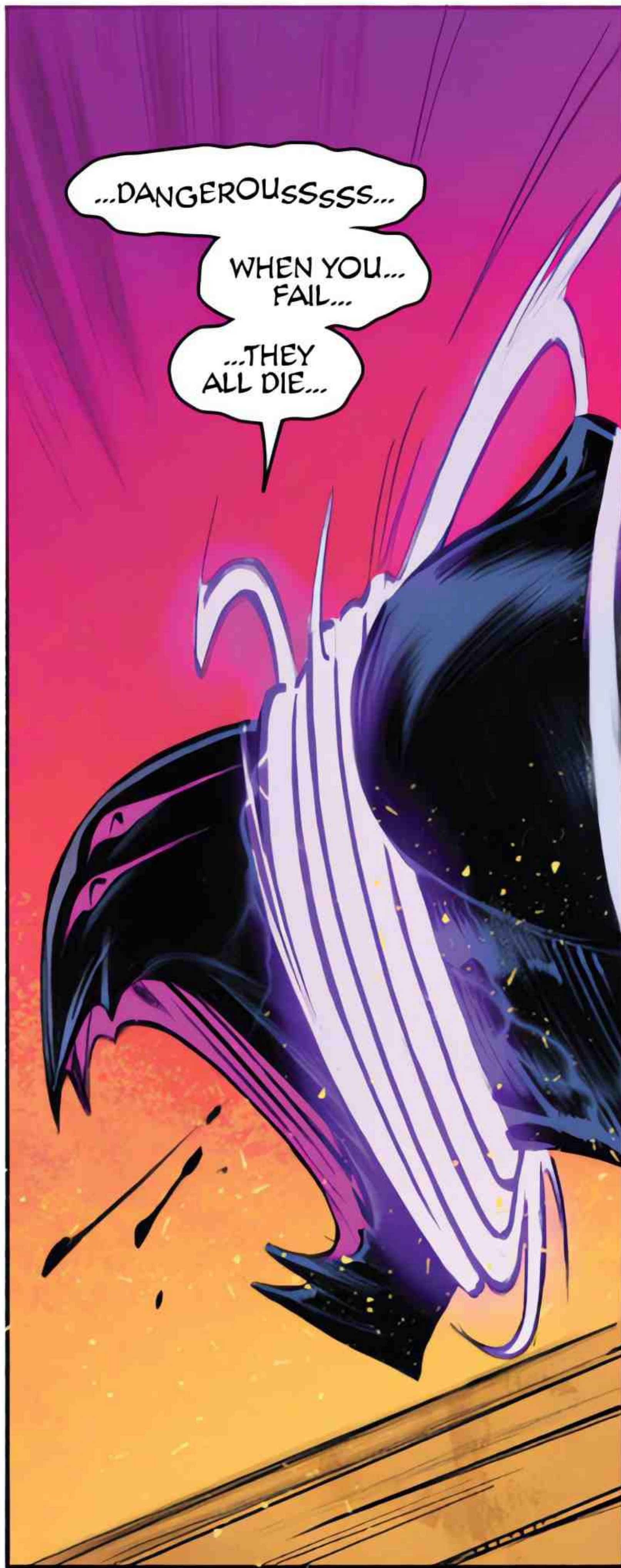
UNLESS, OF COURSE,
YOUR TUESDAY INVOLVES
CLIMBING THROUGH A WINDOW
WITH THE POWERS YOU GAINED
FROM A RADIOACTIVE SPIDER BITE
ONLY TO FIND YOUR APARTMENT
HAS BEEN **TRANSFORMED**
INTO A MYSTICAL LOST CITY
IN THE RAINFOREST.

THEN, I SUPPOSE,
THAT **WOULD** BE
A NORMAL
TUESDAY...











TEN MINUTES
AGO, I WAS IN
NEW YORK CITY...

...AND
NOW...?

GOOD
AFTERNOON, I'D
LIKE TO INQUIRE AS TO
WHETHER OR NOT YOU'RE
**REAL OR ARTIFICIALLY
GENERATED** BY A BIG BAD
VILLAIN WITH NEFARIOUS
PLANS TO--

NOW WE AREN'T
IN **KANSAS**
ANYMORE.

GOOD
TALK!

SORRY...YOU
KNEW I HAD
TO MAKE THAT
JOKE.

UH-OH.



I HATE THE
"GETTING PUNCHED IN
THE FACE AND THROWN
OFF MAGICAL
BUILDINGS" PART...

I HATE
THIS #&%&.



NOTHING WEAKER THAN MAGIC TRICKS.

AND REAL OR NOT, PARKER IS A WALKING MAGIC TRICK.

WOLVERINE, STOP!

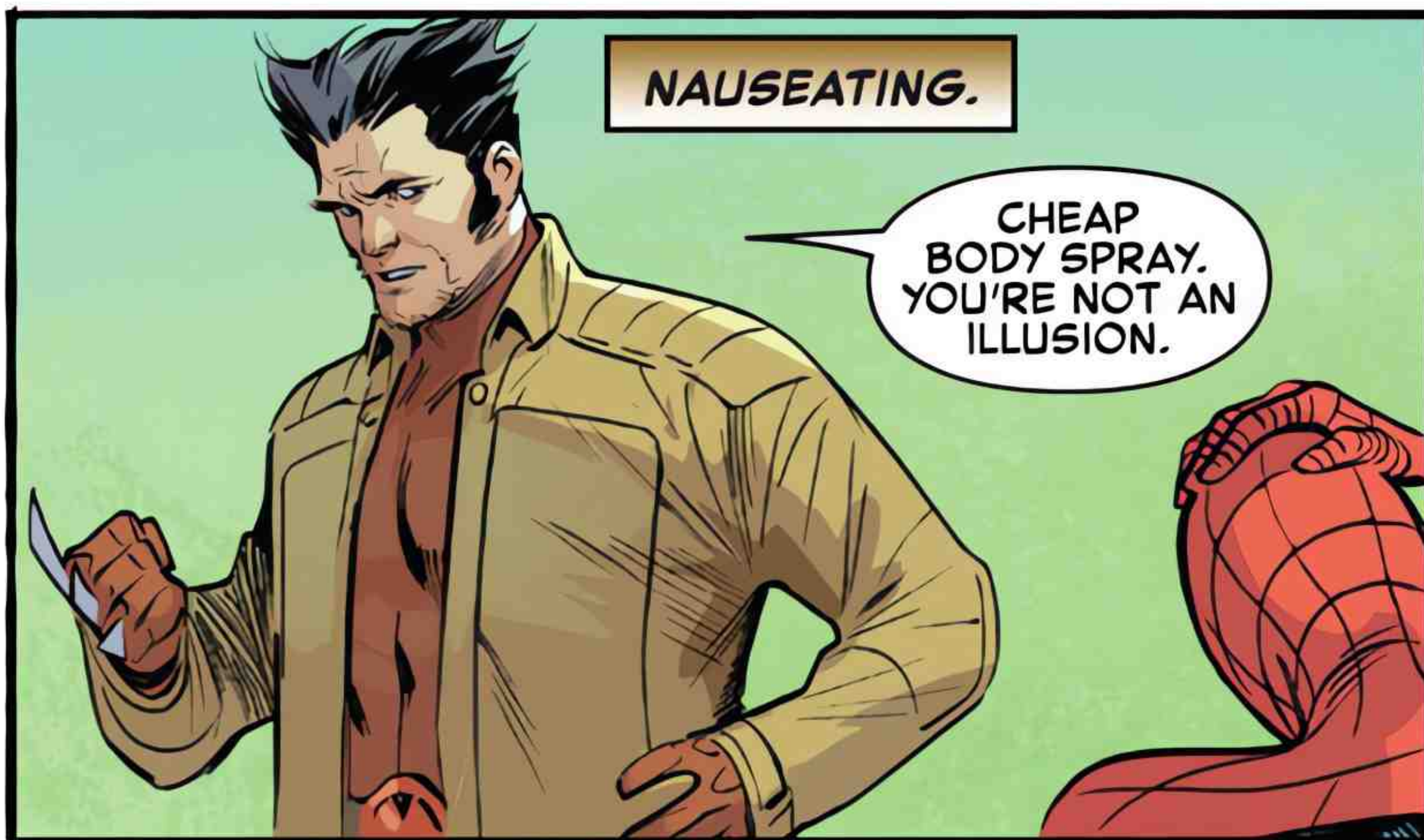


OR SWINGING MAGIC TRICK. ALWAYS SWINGING...

WAIT, WAIT, WAIT...CAN'T WE TALK ABOUT THIS FIRST AND MAYBE--



SNFF SNFF



NAUSEATING.

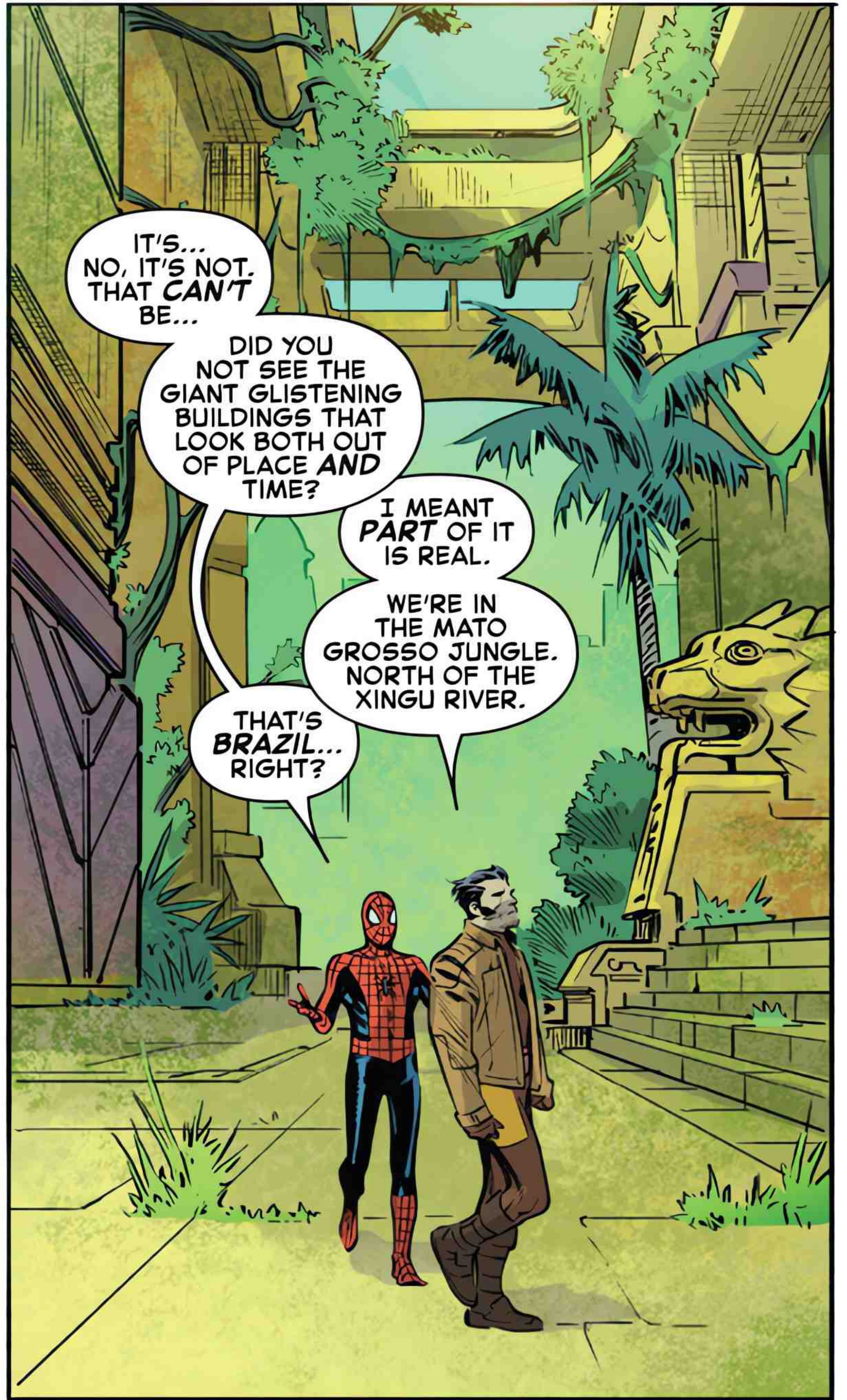
CHEAP BODY SPRAY. YOU'RE NOT AN ILLUSION.

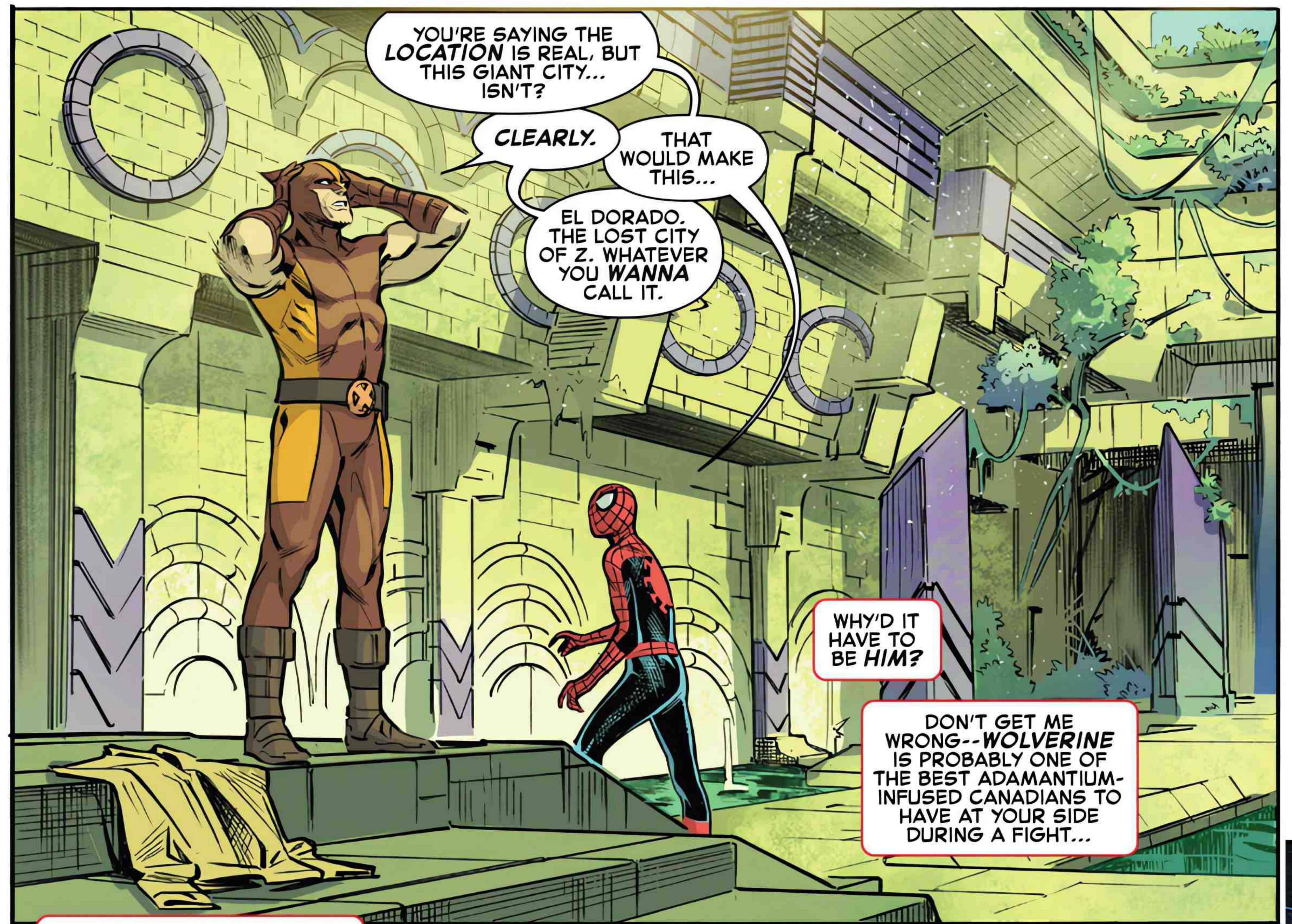


THAT'S THE WEB-FLUID, I SWEAR.

BESIDES... HOW DO I KNOW IT'S REALLY YOU?

THIS ENTIRE THING COULD BE AN ELABORATE TRAP TO MAKE ME TRUST YOU ONLY TO DISCOVER--





YOU'RE SAYING THE LOCATION IS REAL, BUT THIS GIANT CITY... ISN'T?

CLEARLY.

THAT WOULD MAKE THIS...

EL DORADO. THE LOST CITY OF Z. WHATEVER YOU WANNA CALL IT.

WHY'D IT HAVE TO BE HIM?

DON'T GET ME WRONG-- **WOLVERINE** IS PROBABLY ONE OF THE BEST ADAMANTIUM-INFUSED CANADIANS TO HAVE AT YOUR SIDE DURING A FIGHT...

...BUT AS FAR AS EXPLORING A MYTHICAL LOST CITY AND CRACKIN' JOKES GOES... HE'D BE MAYBE MY **TWELFTH** CHOICE. ON A **GOOD** DAY.

WE'VE BOTH BEEN MYSTERIOUSLY TRANSPORTED TO A REAL PLACE BUT A NONEXISTENT CITY THAT **SHOULDN'T** BE HERE.

NO EXPLANATION... NO APPARENT THREAT--



THIS **ISN'T** A GOOD DAY.



HELL OF A DAY...

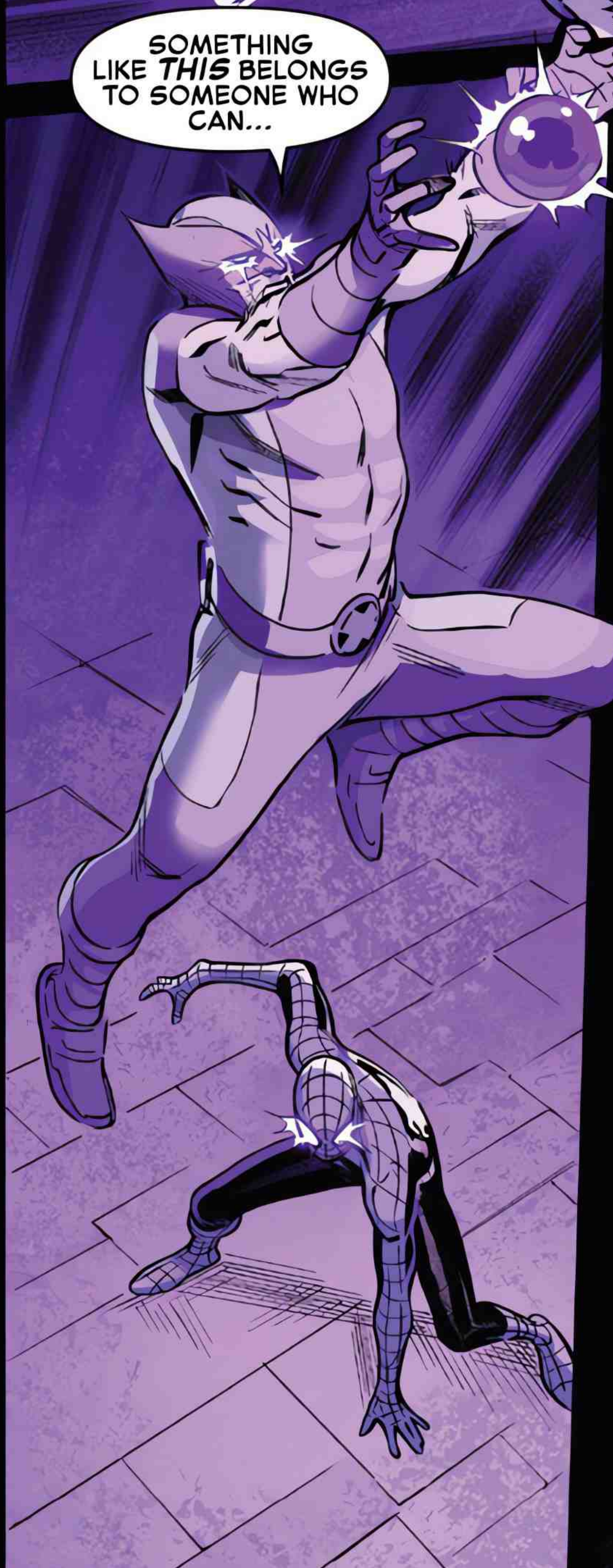




...BUT
SO IS MY
MIND.



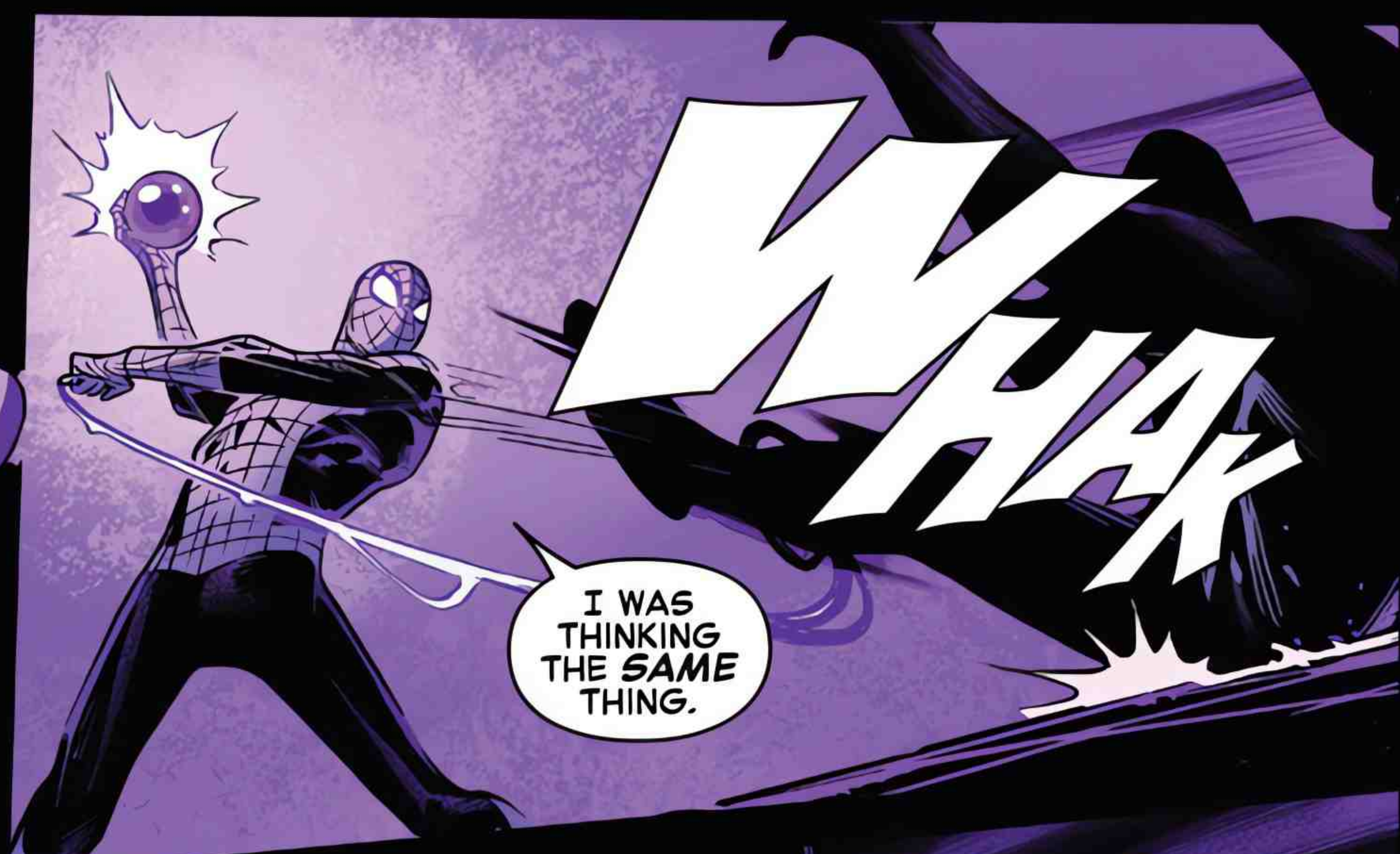
THE WORD
YOU'RE
LOOKIN' FOR
IS *NERD*.



SOMETHING
LIKE *THIS* BELONGS
TO SOMEONE WHO
CAN...



...PROTECT
IT!

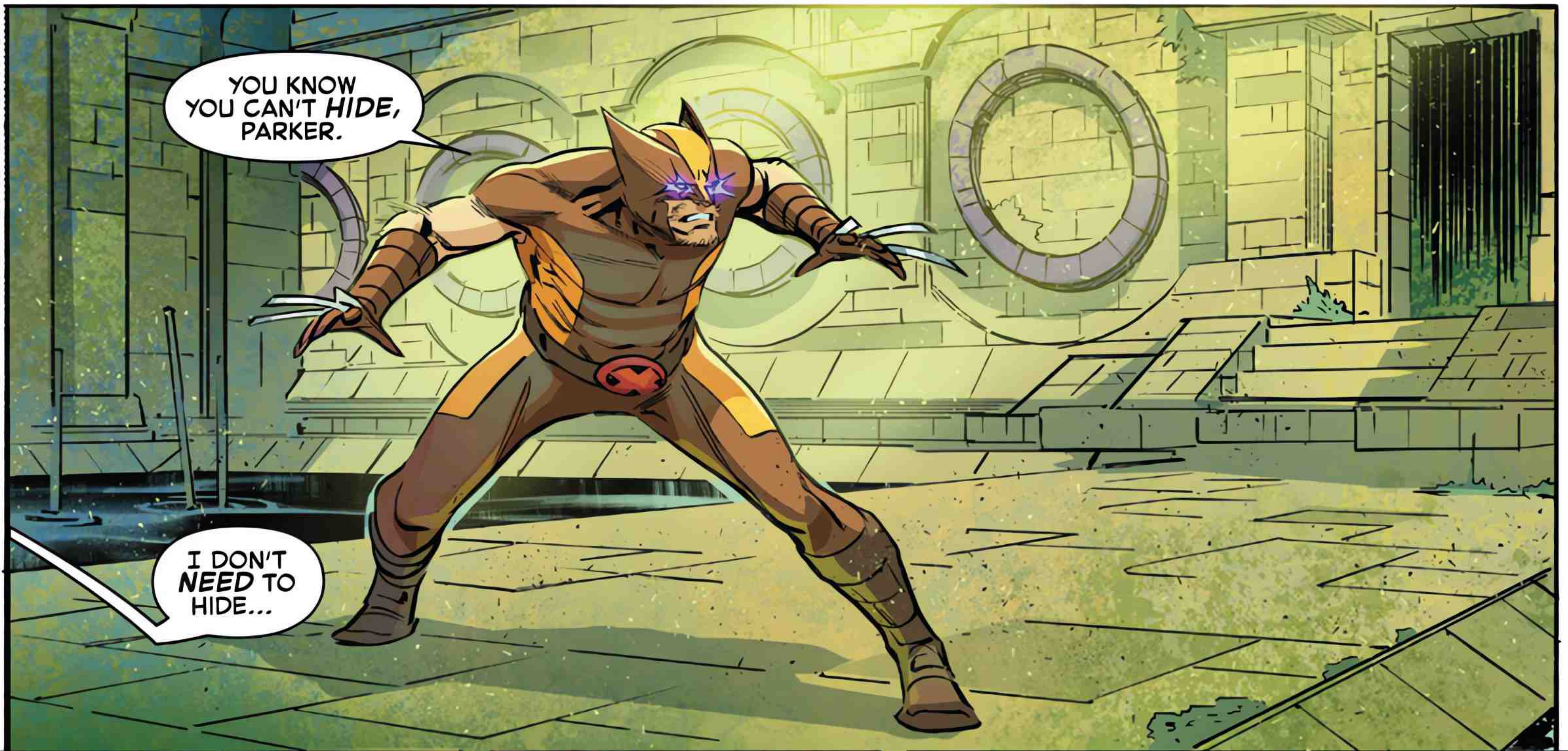


I WAS
THINKING
THE *SAME*
THING.



LAST ONE
TO THE ORNATELY
DECORATED ATRIUM
OF THE LOST CITY
IS A ROTTEN
EGG!











...I'VE FOUND HIM STUBBORN, DISAGREEABLE, BULLHEADED, UNCOMPROMISING AND ABOUT FIFTY MORE SYNONYMS I DON'T HAVE ROOM FOR HERE...

FINDERS KEEPERS!



...BUT I'VE NEVER WANTED TO KILL HIM.



AND ALL I CAN THINK ABOUT IS THE ORB... IT'S DRIVING ME LIKE NOTHING I'VE FELT BEFORE...LIKE...

HUH?!

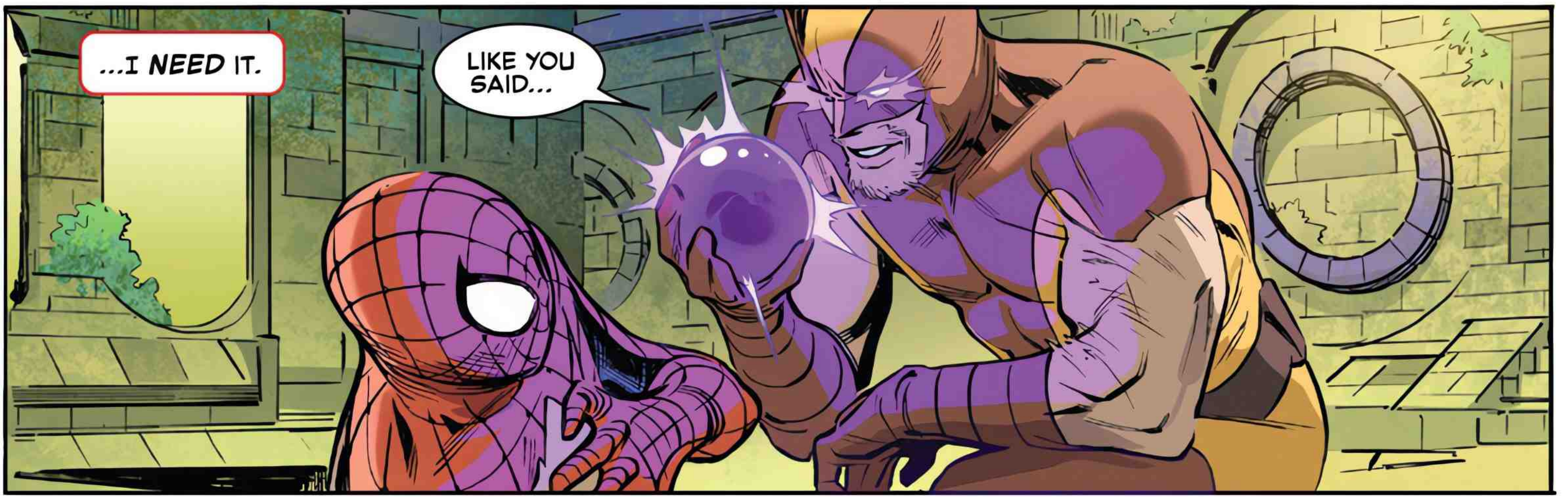


...LIKE IT ISN'T ME.



LUNGH!

I DON'T JUST WANT THAT ORB...



...I NEED IT.

LIKE YOU SAID...



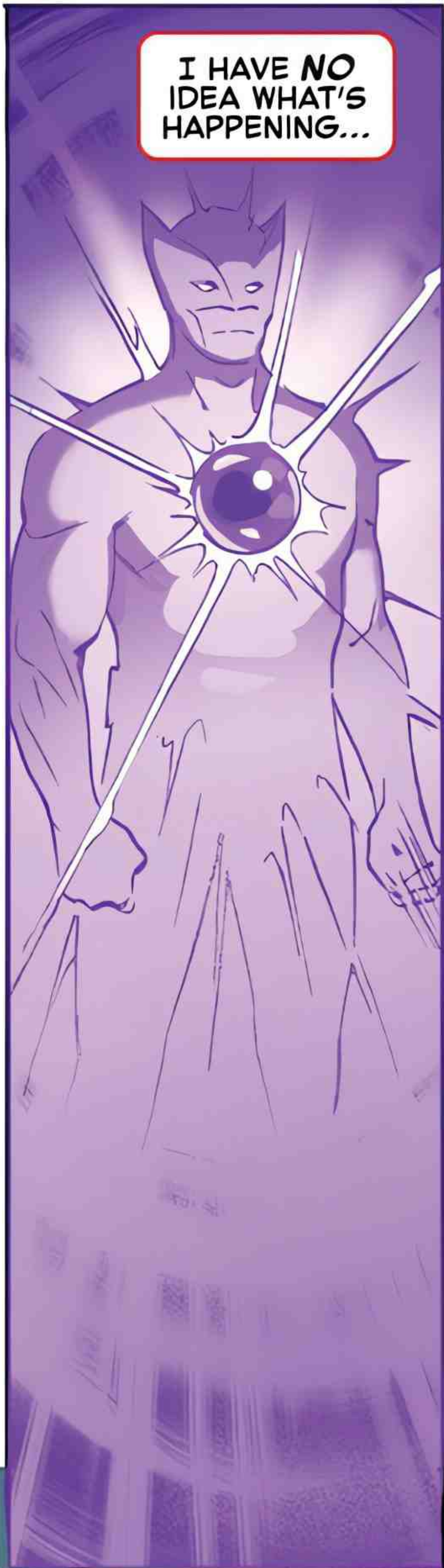
...FINDERS KEEPERS.

AND I SUSPECT LOGAN IS FEELING THE EXACT SAME WAY.

LOGAN, NO... WHATEVER THAT THING IS, I THINK IT'S--



LOGAN!



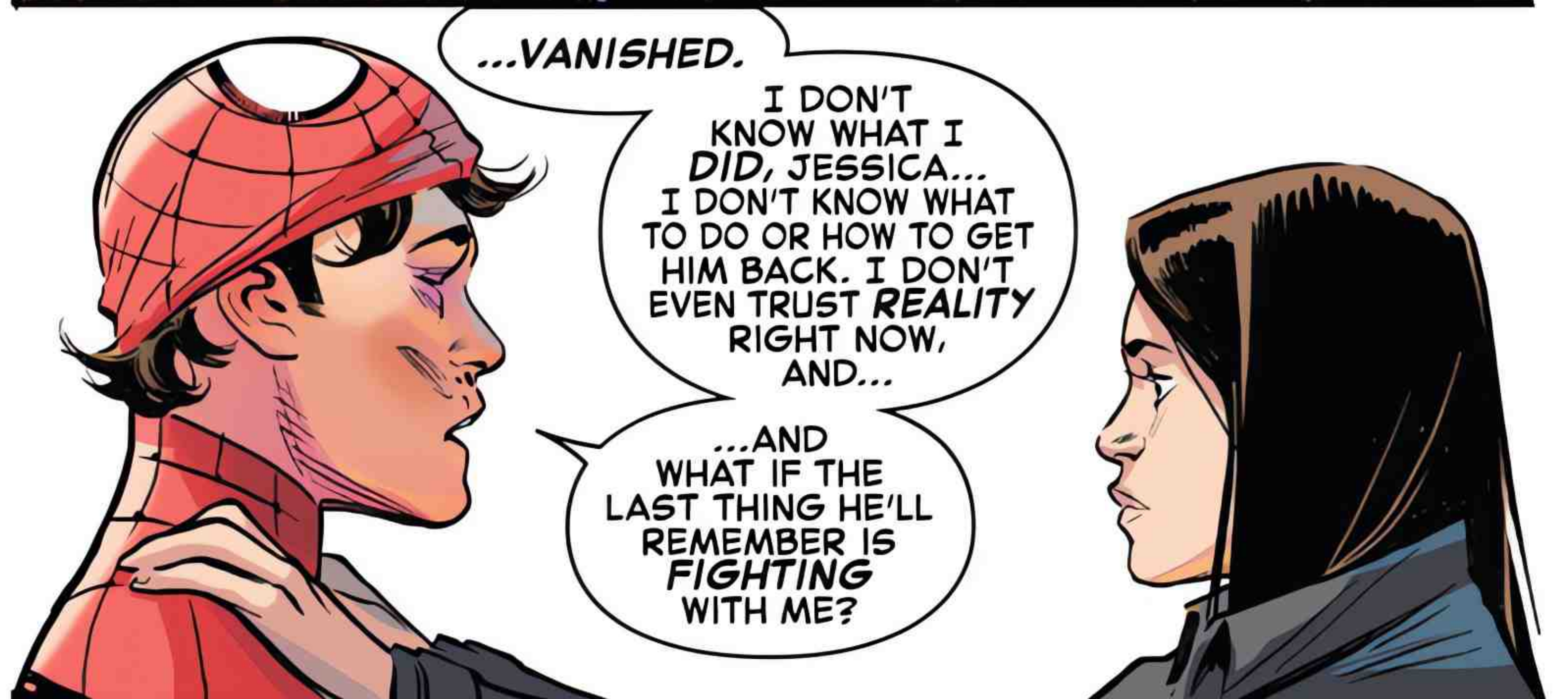
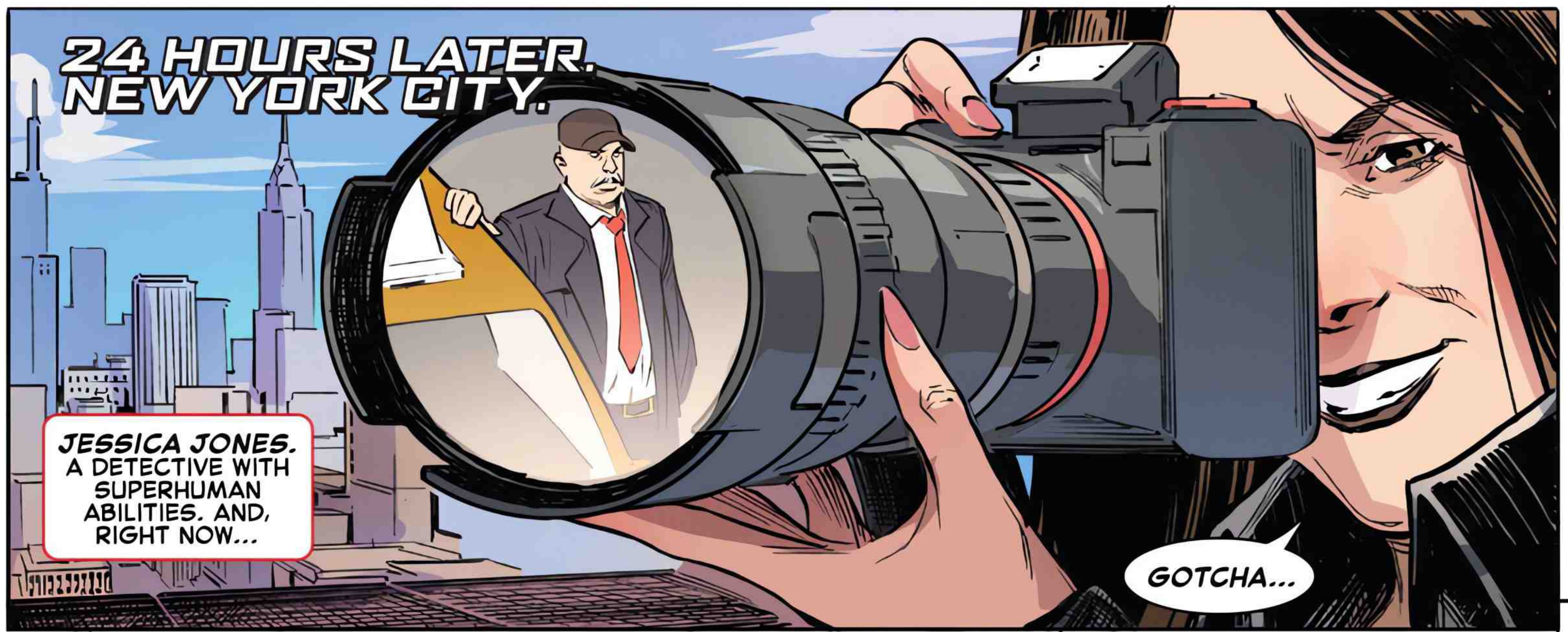
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT'S HAPPENING...



LOGAN.

...BUT I KNOW I'M GOING TO NEED HELP.







STOP.

SELF-LOATHING ISN'T A GOOD LOOK ON YOU, PETER. STICK TO WHAT YOU'RE BEST AT...



...SAVING PEOPLE WHO CAN'T SAVE THEMSELVES.

HOW CAN I DO THAT IF I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON?

THAT'S WHY YOU CAME TO ME, RIGHT?

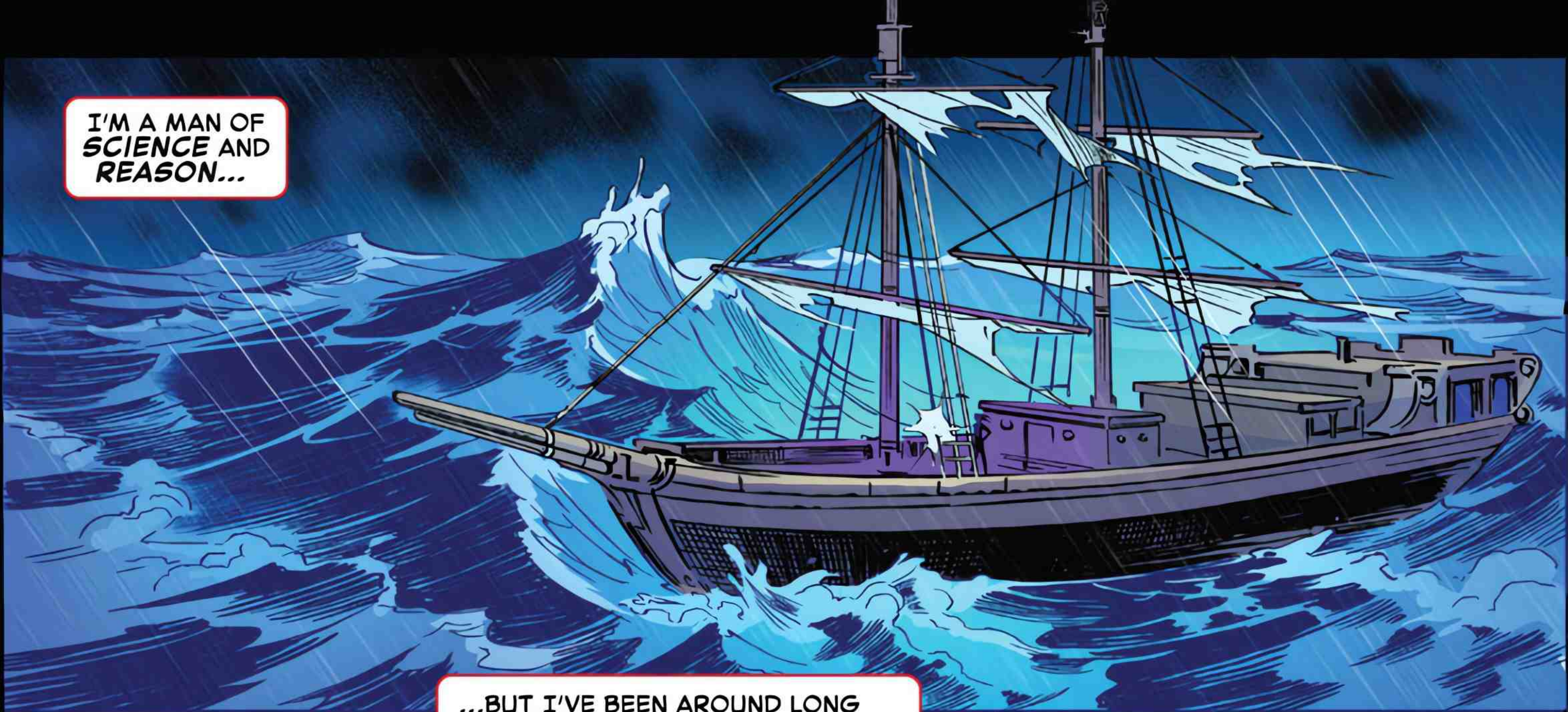
I'M ASSUMING THERE'S A LOT MORE YOU NEED TO TELL ME IF WE'RE GOING TO FIGURE THIS OUT...



...SO STOP WASTING TIME.



MAGICAL MYSTERIES HAVE NEVER REALLY BEEN MY FORTE.

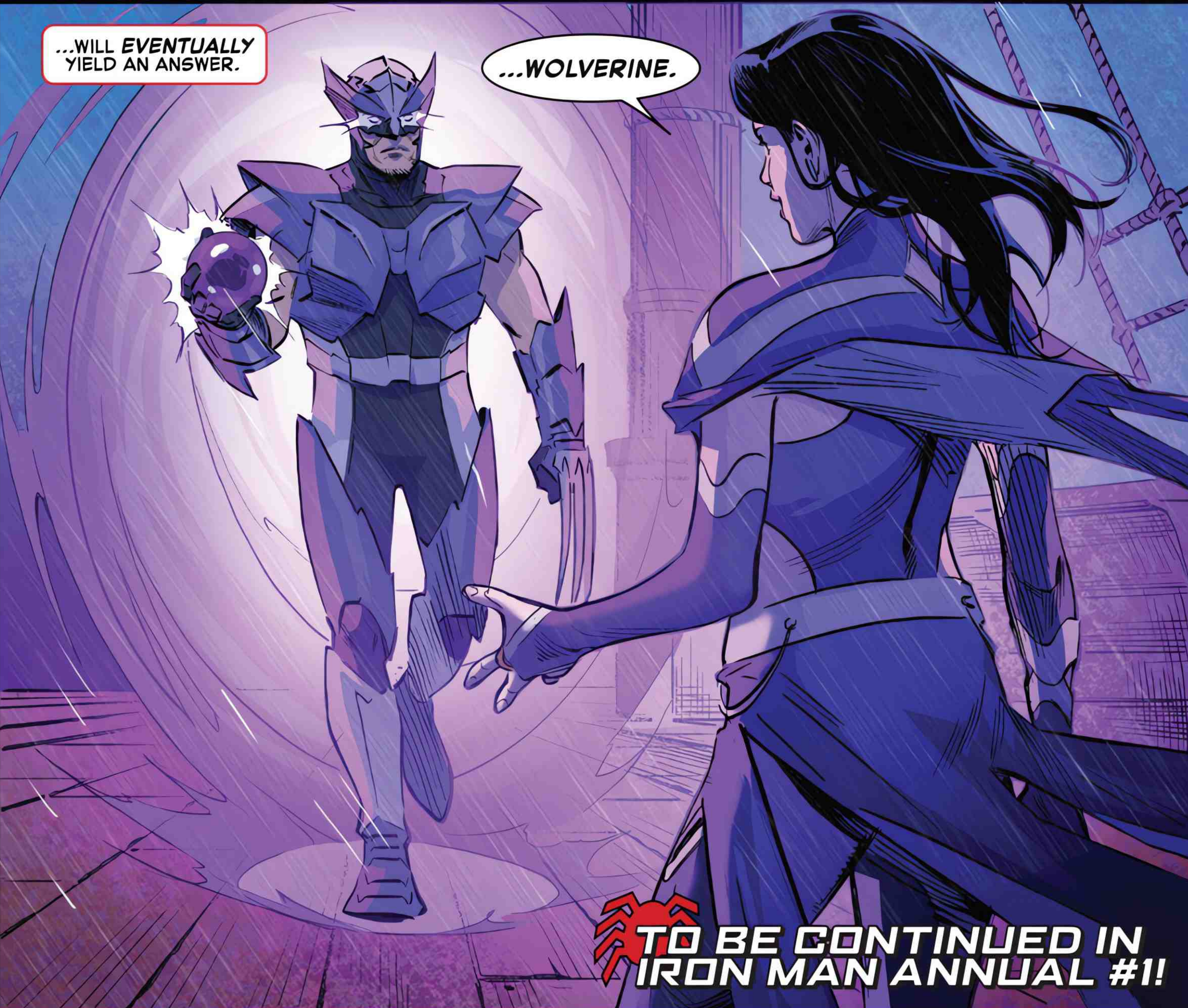


I'M A MAN OF
SCIENCE AND
REASON...

...BUT I'VE BEEN AROUND LONG
ENOUGH TO KNOW THAT EVEN THE
MOST **MYSTERIOUS** EQUATIONS...



CONGRATULATIONS
ON YOUR VICTORY...



...WILL **EVEN**TUALLY
YIELD AN ANSWER.

...**WOLVERINE**.

 **TO BE CONTINUED IN
IRON MAN ANNUAL #1!**

CONTEST OF CHAOS

NEXT:



ANNUAL #1



IRON MAN VS. STORM!

When the forces of chaos move upon our heroes, the past, present and future come crashing in on them--and only one can emerge victorious! The might of human ingenuity versus the power of the natural universe: IRON MAN battling STORM is a clash of titans you won't want to miss!

CHECKLIST:

PRELUDE TO CHAOS

☒ SCARLET WITCH ANNUAL #1

CONTEST OF CHAOS August

☒ SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #1
Spider-Man vs. Wolverine!

☐ IRON MAN ANNUAL #1
Iron Man vs. Storm!

☐ FANTASTIC FOUR ANNUAL #1
Human Torch vs. Ghost Rider!

☐ MOON KNIGHT ANNUAL #1
Moon Knight vs. Taegukgi!

CONTEST OF CHAOS September

☐ SPIDER-GWEN ANNUAL #1
Spider-Gwen vs. White Fox!

☐ VENOM ANNUAL #1
Venom vs. Deadpool!

☐ X-MEN ANNUAL #1
Cyclops vs. Captain Marvel!

☐ AVENGERS ANNUAL #1
Avengers vs. ???